**Organizing the GED® Extended Response (Essay)**

Use this worksheet as a guide to organize evidence that you will use to write your extended response (essay) responding to the following writing prompt.

In your response, analyze both positions presented in the articles to determine which one is best supported. Use relevant and specific evidence from the articles to support your response.

**Part 1**

**Directions:** After reading the passage, answer these questions to help you to analyze it.

**Evaluating the Passage**

| **Question** | **Passage 1** | **Passage 2** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. What is the author’s main argument? Use your own words to summarize the main idea. |  |  |
| 2. What position does the author take (for or against)? |  |  |
| 3. What is one piece of evidence presented to support the author’s argument? What is the source of the information? Is the source reliable? |  |  |
| 4. What is a second piece of evidence presented to support the author’s argument? What is the source of the information? Is the source reliable? |  |  |
| 5. What is a third piece of evidence presented to support the author’s argument? What is the source of the information? Is the source reliable? |  |  |
| 6. What are the major underlying assumptions that the author makes? Do you think they are reasonable and acceptable to most people? |  |  |

**Part 2A**

**Directions:** Now we will organize evidence from the passages. First, list all of the evidence that supports the main argument, select the type of evidence, and state if it is valid or not.

**Argumentative Essay Organizer for Supporting Evidence**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Supporting Evidence** | **Type of Evidence** | **Valid Evidence**  **(Yes or no)** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |

**Part 2B**

**Directions:** Now, list all of the evidence that opposes the argument, select the type of evidence, and state if it is valid or not.

**Argumentative Essay Organizer for Opposing Evidence**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Opposing Evidence** | **Type of Evidence** | **Valid Evidence**  **Yes or no** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |
|  | **Factual** | **Yes** |

**Part 3**

**Directions:** State your claim (which argument is better supported) and provide three reasons and include supporting evidence with each reason. ***Make sure to include evidence from both sides.***

**State Your Claim**

| **Item** | **Answer** |
| --- | --- |
| **Claim (decision)** |  |
| **Reason 1** |  |
| **Supporting evidence** |  |
| **Reason 2** |  |
| **Supporting evidence** |  |
| **Reason 3** |  |
| **Supporting evidence** |  |

**Part 4**

**Directions:** Use the paragraph organizer below to help you practice structuring your essay. You will use your claim and supporting evidence from Part 3 of this worksheet to write your essay. Remember to include four to seven sentences per paragraph.

**Write Your Extended Response (Essay)**

**Paragraph #1:** Introduction (include the main idea of your essay and your claim. You might want to write this after you complete paragraphs 2-4).

**Paragraph #2:** First piece of evidence making this position stronger (remember to include evidence from both sides).

**Paragraph #3:** Second piece of evidence making this position stronger (remember to include evidence from both sides).

**Paragraph #4** (*optional*): Third piece of evidence making this position stronger.

**Paragraph 5:** Conclusion (summarize your essay)

**Part 5A**

**Directions:** Evaluate your extended response using traits 1 and 2 of the extended response rubric in the tables below. If you answer no to any of the questions, revise your response accordingly.

**Evaluate Traits 1 and 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Trait 1 - Creation of Argument and Use of Evidence** | **Yes or no** |
| Is there a clear central claim? | Yes |
| Is sufficient evidence from the passages included? | Yes |
| Is the validity of both arguments evaluated? | Yes |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Trait 2 - Development of Ideas and Organizational Structure** | **Yes or no** |
| Is there an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion? | Yes |
| Are ideas well developed? | Yes |
| Is there a clear connection between the main point and details? | Yes |
| Is a formal style used? | Yes |
| Are transition words and phrases used? | Yes |

**Part 5B**

**Directions:** Evaluate your extended response using trait 3 of the extended response rubric in the tables below. If you answer no to any of the questions, revise your response accordingly.

**Evaluate Trait 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sentence Structure** | **Yes or no** |
| Are all sentences complete? | Yes |
| Is there a variety of sentence types and lengths? | Yes |
| Is the response easy to follow? | Yes |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grammar** | **Yes or no** |
| Do all verbs agree with their subjects? | Yes |
| Are all pronouns in the correct form? | Yes |
| Are all sentences correctly punctuated? | Yes |
| Are apostrophes used correctly? | Yes |
| Are words spelled correctly? | Yes |
| Is correct capitalization used? | Yes |